6. Any person appointed as a member of an arbitral panel shall have expertise or experience in law, international trade, other matters covered by the covered agreements or the resolution of disputes arising under international trade agreements. A member shall be chosen strictly on the basis of objectivity, reliability, sound judgment and independence and shall conduct himself or herself on the same basis throughout the course of the arbitral panel proceedings. If a party to the dispute believes that a member is in violation of the basis stated above, the parties to the dispute shall consult and if they agree, the member shall be removed and a new member shall be appointed in accordance with this Article. Additionally, the chair shall not be a national of any party to the dispute and shall not have his or her usual place of residence in the territory of, nor be employed by, any party to the dispute nor have dealt with the referred matter in any capacity.

7. Where the original arbitral panel is required for a matter as provided in this Agreement but cannot hear the matter for any reason, a new arbitral panel shall be established in accordance with this Article. The same timeframe which would have applied, had the original arbitral panel heard the matter, shall apply for the newly established arbitral panel.

Article 7
Third Parties

1. Any Party having a substantial interest in a dispute before an arbitral panel and having notified its interest in writing to the parties to such a dispute and the rest of the Parties, shall have an opportunity to make written submissions to the arbitral panel. These submissions shall also be given to the parties to the dispute and may be reflected in the report of the arbitral panel.

2. Third parties shall receive the submissions of the parties to the dispute at the first meeting of the arbitral panel.

3. If a third party considers that a measure that is already the subject of an arbitral panel proceeding nullifies or impairs benefits accruing to it under the covered agreements, such Party may have recourse to normal dispute settlement procedures under this Agreement.

Article 8
Suspension and Termination of Proceedings

1. Where the parties to the dispute agree, the arbitral panel may suspend its work at any time for a period not exceeding twelve (12) months from the date of such agreement. Upon the request of any party to the dispute, the arbitral panel proceeding shall be resumed after such suspension. If the work of the arbitral panel has been suspended for more than twelve (12) months, the authority of the arbitral panel shall lapse unless the parties to the dispute agree otherwise.

2. The parties to the dispute may agree to terminate the proceedings of an arbitral panel at any time before the presentation of the final report to them, in the event that a mutually satisfactory solution to the dispute has been found.

3. Before the arbitral panel makes its decision, it may, at any stage of the